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BELGIUM-FRANCE: Brussels annoyed with French over
Middle East policy.

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BELGIUM-FRANCE: BELGIUM HAS REACTED SHARPLY TO FRENCH PRESSURES TO ALIGN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BEHIND FRANCE'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY, WHICH BELGIUM CONSIDERS EXCESSIVELY PRO-ARAB.

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THE NEW INSTRUCTIONS FOLLOW WHAT BRUSSELS REGARDS AS PARIS' BREACH OF PROMISE TO REDRAFT IN MORE BALANCED FASHION ITS UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION OF 26 JUNE CONDEMNING ISRAELI REPRISAL RAIDS INTO LEBANON. FRICTION BETWEEN FRANCE AND ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS OVER THE ENDEAVOR TO DEVELOP COMMON POLICIES TOWARD THE MIDDLE EAST IS NOT NEW, HOWEVER. THE DUTCH HAVE ALSO OUTSPOKENLY OPPOSED FRANCE'S PRO-ARAB STANCE, AND ALL FIVE OF PARIS' COMMUNITY PARTNERS WERE PARTICULARLY OUTRAGED LAST YEAR WHEN THE FRENCH TOOK IT UPON THEMSELVES TO "INFORM" THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ABOUT A SUPPOSEDLY CONFIDENTIAL POSITION PAPER DEVELOPED IN COMMUNITY POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS.

DESPITE THESE DIFFICULTIES, THE SIX--AND NOW THE TEN--HAVE CONTINUED FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS IN THE UN TO CONCERT THEIR POLICIES ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND OTHER QUESTIONS. THE MOOD OF BELGIAN LEADERS HAS NOT BEEN SOOTHED BY FRENCH INSISTENCE THAT THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY POLITICAL SECRETARIAT BE LOCATED IN PARIS RATHER THAN BRUSSELS, OR BY WHAT THE BELGIANS FEEL WAS THE HIGH-HANDED TREATMENT ACCORDED PRIME MINISTER EYSKENS DURING HIS VISIT TO PARIS LAST MONTH.

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